

Message Text

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11
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

SAM-01 /078 W
----- 101628

R 200800Z MAY 75
FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6166
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
DIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PROP, PLO, MT. XF
SUBJECT: PLO REPRESENTATIVE VISITS MALTA AGAIN

REF: VALLETTA 0386, 0379

1. THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION'S REPRESENTATIVE
IN ITALY, NIMR HAMMAD, VISITED MALTA FOR A SECOND TIME
MAY 15-16 IN CONJUNCTION WITH PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED PLAN
TO OPEN PLO OFFICE HERE.

2. DURING VISIT, HAMMAD HELD PRESS CONFERENCE AT LEADING
HOTEL AND WAS FEATURED IN FILMED INTERVIEW (IN ENGLISH)
ON MALTESE TELEVISION. DURING THESE APPEARANCES, HAMMAD
EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT FORTHCOMING PEACE DISCUSSIONS
IN GENEVA WOULD FAIL, AND THAT THE CHANCES OF ANOTHER
MIDDLE EAST WAR ARE GREATER THAN EVER.

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3. CONCERNING PLANNED PLO OFFICE IN MALTA, HAMMAD

STATED HE "HOPED SUCH AN OFFICE WOULD BE OPENED ON
THE ISLAND SHORTLY".

4. COMMENT: DESPITE PROMINENT COVERAGE OF SECOND
HAMMAD VISIT BY PRO-MINTOFFIAN LABOR NEWSPAPERS AND
EXPOSURE ON MINTOFFIAN-CONTROLLED TELEVISION, THERE HAS
STILL BEEN NO OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT BY GOM OF OPENING
DATE FOR PLO OFFICE. HOWEVER, RELATED, BUT UNCONFIRMED,
STORY IN PRO-LABOR MALTA NEWS ON MAY 16 STATED YASIR ARAFAT
"MAY VISIT MALTA" IN THE "NEAR FUTURE" TO ATTEND OPENING
OF PLO OFFICE. SMITH

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